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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BURBANK SMOG CHECK STATION'S LICENSE SUSPENDED**

***Bureau of Automotive Repair alleges "clean piping" by Victory Test Only Smog Center Owner***

BURBANK – A Burbank Smog Check station accused of illegal "clean piping," and the station's owner, have had their licenses suspended pending a revocation hearing as a result of an investigation by the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR).

An Administrative Law judge has granted BAR's request for Interim Suspension Orders (ISO) to immediately suspend the Automotive Repair Dealer registration and the Smog Check Test Only Station license of the Victory Test Only Smog Center, 527 S. Victory Blvd., Burbank and the Advanced Emission Specialist Technician License of owner Armik Bekter.

In September 2010, BAR's investigation of Bekter revealed multiple instances of "clean piping".

"Clean piping" is when a vehicle, that would not pass a Smog Check inspection on its own or is not present for testing is fraudulently certified as passing. To accomplish this, a technician or other individual uses a clean exhaust sample from another vehicle that will pass a Smog Check while entering data for the vehicle for which the Smog Certificate is required.

"The bottom line is clean piping is against the law," said DCA Director Brian Stiger. California roads have no room for polluting vehicles. Dirty air is a problem for everyone and BAR will act quickly to take bad players out of business."

"The goal of California's Smog Check Program is to reduce air pollution by bringing vehicles into compliance with emissions standards," said BAR Chief Sherry Mehl. "These acts constitute serious environmental crimes, in addition to numerous violations of the Health and Safety Code."

BAR sought the ISOs to shut down Victory Test Only and prevent Bekter from being able to work as a licensed Smog Check technician while BAR proceeds with its enforcement case. BAR is seeking to permanently revoke both licenses.

An administrative hearing will be held at a later date to address the violations found during the investigation.

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